

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/717,147

Examiner

Pho M Luu

Applicant(s)

MAROTTA ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/19/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search History.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

#### ***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form PTO-1449, filed 19 November 2003. The information disclosed therein was considered.

#### ***Specification***

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

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The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

***Allowance***

5. Claims 1-24 are allowance.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to: "isolating the bit line and the input node from the first potential node; and sensing a potential level at the input node while applying the reference current, wherein the potential level at the input node is indicative of the programmed state of the floating-gate memory cell" as claimed in the independent claim 1; or

"generating a reference current, wherein the reference current varies inversely with changes in ambient temperature and wherein the reference current is less than one-half an expected current flow through the floating-gate memory cell in an erased state" as claimed in the independent claim 14 and independent claim 19; or

"generating a reference current in response to the potential level of the reference current control signal, wherein the reference current varies inversely with the changes in ambient temperature and is less than one-half an expected current flow through the floating-gate memory cell in an erased state" as claimed in the independent claim 16 and independent claim 18; or

“generating a reference current control signal having a potential level, wherein the reference current control signal is generated at an output node located at an output of a diode having an input coupled to receive a supply potential from a second potential node, and wherein a resistive component is coupled between the output node and a third potential node coupled to receive a ground potential” as claimed in the independent claim 20; or

“applying the reference current control signal to a gate of a p-channel field-effect transistor coupled between the input node and a fourth potential node coupled to receive the supply potential, thereby applying the reference current to the input node, wherein the reference current is less than one-half an expected current flow through the floating-gate memory cell in an erased state” as claimed in the independent claim 21.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Michael et al (US. 6,535,426) discloses sense amplifier circuit of a nonvolatile memory devices including a current source that is configurable to source any of at least two nonzero current level in the sense amplifier.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is 571.272.1876.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on 571.272.1869. The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306 for all official communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0956.

PML  
09 June 2004

  
**VANTHU NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**